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TO : Jack

FROM : Ed FOIAb3b1

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] North Vietnamese Document Project

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1. OCI [REDACTED] says the translations of these documents are absolutely indispensable. Altogether some 50 periodicals are handled in this project. [REDACTED] has 3 people working on all the North Vietnamese material and devotes two man-years to the document project. These two man-years are devoted to screening and selection of material to be translated either in-house or in [REDACTED] FOIAb3b1 editing, and publication of the final translations.

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2. [REDACTED] feels that if it is absolutely necessary to cut down on the volume of this material that is published some priority of coverage can be established.

3. The following are his remarks on the subject:

Priority scanning of North Vietnamese periodicals could probably be confined to the main articles of Hoc Tap, Nhan Dan, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Tuyen Huyen, and Hanoi Muoi. The last part of Hoc Tap, for example, almost every month contains very peripheral material which could easily be eliminated. These five journals have consistently contained almost all the material used by OCI in recent months.

For a brief period of time, we could probably safely do without all information on personalities, with the exception of the top leadership. All articles by or references to politburo members, however, should be translated--especially internal references to speeches or remarks by the top five. We could also get along without articles on cultural affairs, education, finance, and overseas Chinese. We need almost everything we can get, however, on problems in the military (recruitment, frictions with the civilian populace, desertions, improper motivation), the party (organization, reshuffling of personnel, recruitment and dismissal policies, references to improper attitudes and work habits of cadres), security, and agricultural production and organization (the enlarging of cooperatives, a step-up in the pace of socialization, and the progress of the new socialization statute). Recent translations of letters to the editors and articles from Hanoi Muoi have also been very helpful in bringing to light civilian complaints about social conditions and the regime's response to these complaints. We would hate to see these cut back, but could do without them for 90 days or so.